(b) if so, whether Union Government has set up a Committee of Experts in this regard to find out the location of earthquake well in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to inform the public about earthquakes well in advance?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Statistical analysis of the available earthquakes database does not indicate any apparent increasing trend in the earthquake frequency. With the densification of seismic network in recent times, it has become possible to detect lower magnitude earthquakes over India.

(b) and (c) Government of India has not set up any committee to find out the location of earthquake well in time. However, India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the nodal agency in the country to monitor the earthquake activity on 24x7 basis and notify the magnitude and location soon after the occurrence of any earthquake in and around the country. The capability has been augmented recently in the wake of the Tsunami waves that struck the Indian coasts on 26th December, 2004. As part of the network augmentation, a Real Time Seismic Monitoring Network (RTSMN) consisting of 17 field stations has been set up with auto-location capability to provide timely input to the Tsunami Warning System in Operation at Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.

(d) Providing information prior to the occurrence is possible as on today, anywhere in the world as no prediction methodology exists. Global scientific community is making efforts to study the pre-cursory phenomena of earthquakes.

Setting up of National Security Commission

673. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for appointment of a National Security Commission as directed by Supreme Court in 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the specific reasons for not setting up of such a commission so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 22.9.2006 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 310/1996, *inter-alia,* directed that a National Security Commission may be set up to prepare panels for appointment of Chiefs of the Central Police Organisations (CPOs), review measures to upgrade the effectiveness of these forces, improve their service conditions, ensure proper coordination between them and proper utilization of the forces. The Government has considered the matter and constituted a Committee on National Security and Central Police Personnel Welfare on 2.1.2007 under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister to prepare panels for appointment of Chiefs of Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs), consider issues pertaining to the service conditions of the CPMFs personnel and any other related matter. There are various mechanisms in the Government to deal with other security related matters.